Election of a non-official member to the Advisory Committee on Agriculture, Co-operation, etc.

Mr. President: Order, order. I have to announce that Mr. P. K. Krishnan is elected to the Advisory Committee on Agriculture, Co-operation, Panchayats and Uplift of the Depressed Classes, he being the only candidate nominated.

Voting of Demands for Grants—*(cont.)*

19. Education—Rs. 18,89,061

1. To reduce the prices of text books and to prescribe them for ten years—*(cont.)*

Mr. P. J. George *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Sir, I have already pointed out yesterday that the whole matter is to be left to the discretion of the Text Book Committee. The committee is specifically constituted to look to all these things—the prices of books, their style of printing, etc., etc. They are at perfect liberty to fix the price of these books and especially at this particular time, it is most inopportune to contemplate a reduction of price, because the price of paper has now gone up to twice or thrice the normal price.

As regards the prescription of text books for another ten years more, I have pointed out yesterday that this is quite contrary to all ideas of progress. As I said yesterday, even children will get impatient if the already five year old text books are prescribed for ten years more, when their friends in the neighbouring territories of Travancore and British India will have the advantage of studying modern text books with new ideas incorporated in them. I do not think that the parents who have children will grudge paying a few pies more for a text book written on modern lines rather than inflicting these antiquated text books (which are already five years old) for another ten years more. I do not think that I should dilate on this point any further. I do not think that the House will support this motion. It will only help some author to earn some more money. That is all.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* This will benefit the publishers more.

Mr. P. J. George *(Joint Secretary to Government):* The publishers also. Therefore, I hope the hon'ble member will withdraw the motion in the light of the facts explained by me.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw the motion.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn

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